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HITS FROM THE BONG
VIDEO OF MILEY LEAKED ONLINE
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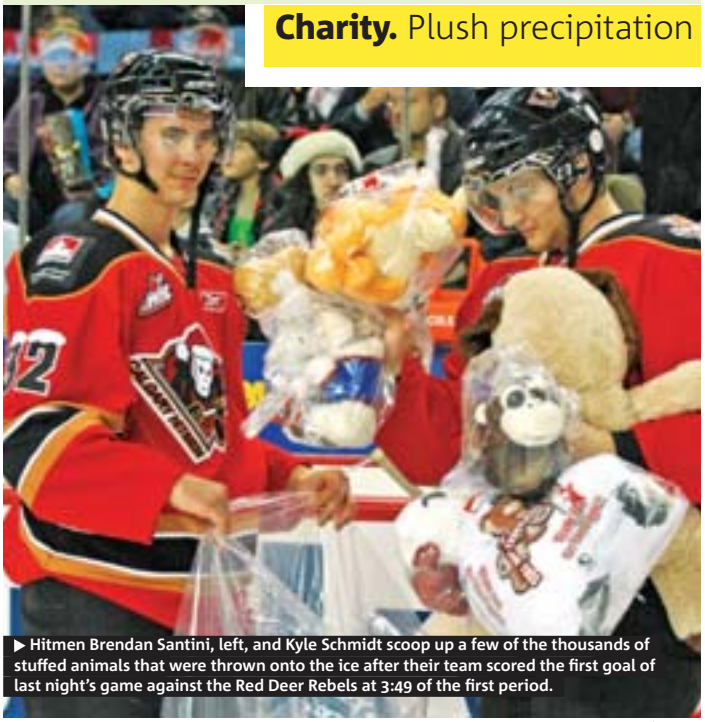

▶ Hitmen Brendan Santini, left, and Kyle Schmidt scoop up a few of the thousands of stuffed animals that were thrown onto the ice after their team scored the first goal of last night's game against the Red Deer Rebels at 3:49 of the first period.

KATEI TURNER/FOR METRO

Hitmen fans toss toys for needy kids

It was raining bears inside the Saddledome last night as fans took part in the 16th annual Petro-Canada Teddy Bear Toss. More than six truckloads of toys were taken off the ice after the Hitmen scored the first goal of a game they went on to win 2-0. The toys will be distributed to local agencies today, and several Hitmen players will visit the Alberta Children's Hospital to deliver 400 of the toys to patients.

Casino proposal makes enemies

NW residents use Facebook to voice their concerns {page 3}

Target: Bogus charity receipts

CRA documents reveal evidence of widespread abuse {page 6}

New app to take city's traffic pulse

U of C researchers spearhead $280K project ◗ App would rely on GPS in commuters' phones ◗ City has committed $80K to real-time technology project

JEREMY NOLAIS
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA

University of Calgary researchers are developing a smartphone application that could give Calgary commuters a real-time beat on traffic flow, road conditions and accidents.

Known as TrafficPulse, the project relies on voluntary GPS tracking of smartphone users in the city. Users simply press a button as they begin their commute to allow their progress to be tracked.

On the road, drivers can also provide updates on road conditions and accidents with the simple press of a button, said lead researcher Steve Liang, who works out of the U of C's Schulich School of Engineering.

"In the future, we can actively notify users if something's wrong ahead," he said.

The project has caught the attention of city officials, who met with the TrafficPulse team for an update last week.

Troy McLeod, the city's manager of traffic, said TrafficPulse could someday provide Calgarians with a real-time map of commuting conditions.

"We could put that information out on our advanced traveller information system, and people could check ahead of time before they leave," he said, noting that this is the next step on the heels of the Deerfoot Trail travel-time pilot project the city carried out in November.

Liang said the biggest challenge now is to gather participants. For that, the team has developed a social networking game, called Green Karma, in which users are rewarded for providing updates.

"If we have enough participants, we can get a real-time traffic flow for the entire city," he said.

An apt app for commuters

- The TrafficPulse program was initially developed for the Android Phone; however, researchers are working to adapt it for BlackBerry.
- Motion-based technology would even allow city crews to pinpoint potholes or icy-road conditions.
- Researchers hope to conduct a month-long user test with up to 100 University of Calgary students in late January.

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Family aims to spread some cheer

A Calgary man's beaming tribute to his father has quickly turned into a Christmas tradition.

Sean Bain can recall fond memories of his father Garry appealing to neighbours to string at least one set of lights from their homes every holiday season.

When Garry passed away three years ago, Sean decided to use his knowledge as a professional electrician to take his home's Christmas decor to a new level. The house on Berkley Close NW has now become an attraction for hundreds of curious individuals every year.

"It's really important," Sean said. "I love setting up the lights. I love seeing people's expressions when they see them."

This year's edition features 11,000 lights and took the family 10 to 12 hours to set up. The set even comes complete with its own radio station, broadcasting Christmas tunes within a one-block radius on 100.1 FM from 5 p.m. onwards every night.

"It's great, because people can listen in their cars and look at the lights," said Sean's wife, Tracy. "Hardly anyone lights up the street anymore. We try to get the Christmas cheer going." JEREMY NOLAIS

JEREMY NOLAIS/FOR METRO

▶ These lights on Berkley Close NW blink in tune with music.

Citizens rallying against NW casino

Proposition would involve a hotel and conference centre as well as a casino Residents met last week with community association to address their concerns

KATIE TURNER
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA

Residents in one of Calgary's northwest neighbourhoods are trying to ensure that city council does not go through with building a casino in their community.

Deepa Madhavan is behind the Facebook group "No Casino in Royal Oak, Calgary," and said she and many of her neighbours have concerns.

"This is walking distance from our community, which is a big concern for us. We like this place as it is," she said. "A casino is fine, but it should be outside the city."

Madhavan said along with the Facebook group, her neighbour is building a website regarding the proposed project and she said they are looking into starting a petition.

Madhavan's son Adarsh said he disagrees with the support put forward by Ward 2 Ald. Gord Lowe.

"Gord Lowe keeps saying that the crime rate will not increase in this area if there's a casino ... I don't know where he's getting the facts from, but it's absolutely incorrect," he said.

"It can ruin the very fabric of a community."

Calls made to Lowe were not returned.

Details

- The Facebook group currently has 91 members.
- Members of the Land and Asset Strategy Committee discussed the project at an in-camera meeting on Dec. 7.

KATIE TURNER/FOR METRO

▶ Several Royal Oak and Rocky Ridge residents have spoken out against having a casino built in their community.

Early morning gunfire

Residents on Radcliffe Crescent SE received a rude awakening yesterday as shots rang out shortly after 5 a.m.

Police believe the incident may be linked to a fight outside of the Forest Lawn Community Centre an hour prior.

No one was injured in the incident, but one home was left with visible bullet holes on its exterior.

Nearby resident Kamran Aslam was preparing milk for his child when he heard two shots fired.

"It sounded like a big gun ... We were scared," he said. JEREMY NOLAIS

3
Police say at least three rounds hit the home on Radcliffe Crescent SE.

News in brief

Last chance to chime in on vehicle noise

SURVEY. Calgarians have until Wednesday to head online and fill out the city's excessive vehicle noise survey.

The results of the survey and previous public consultations will be published online in late January and go before council in March.

The survey is available at calgary.ca. METRO

Call spurs probe into 'sudden death'

INVESTIGATION. Calgary police are investigating a suspicious "sudden death" after officers were called to a residence in the 4300 block of 58th Street NE yesterday morning.

Few details were made available. However, no arrests had been made and investigators were continuing to interview witnesses.

An autopsy is scheduled for today. METRO

For more news visit metronews.ca/calgary

1 news

News on the move

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Guidy Mamann offers advice for Canadians sponsoring out-of-status spouses for permanent residence. More at metronews.ca/immigration

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Pakistani doctor arrested for blasphemy after tossing away a business card. Scan code for story.

Boy recovering after fire rescue

A four-year-old Calgary boy is resting with family after being rescued by firefighters Friday morning.

A blaze broke out in a home on Falshire Drive NE around 10 a.m. and quickly trapped Dylan Lakusta in the basement.

Firefighters fought off the blaze to rescue Dylan, who was taken to hospital in life-threatening condition.

The youngster has since recovered and has been released from hospital.

METRO

AHS picks up pieces after cookie crumble

Alberta Health Services has officially begun searching for a replacement for ousted CEO Stephen Duckett.

Duckett's contract was terminated after he brushed off reporters questioning the province's emergency care wait times, telling them "I'm eating my cookie." METRO

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Need for more recycling: Druh Farrell

Alderman wants organic waste collection ◗ Service for apartments and condos ◗ Goal is 80% recycled by 2020

KATIE TURNER
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA

Calgary's recycling could be taken to the next step as one alderman is looking to get a jump on expanding the program.

Ald. Druh Farrell will be presenting a notice of motion to her council colleagues today asking administration to explore more recycling opportunities.

"Council has a goal of diverting 80 per cent of its waste by 2020 and it's asking for a report on what the next steps should be to get us to that goal," she said.

23%

The city reached an average of around 23 per cent waste recycled per household this year. Blue cart recycling has already been instituted and the city is in the process of distributing black garbage carts around the city.

Farrell said at the top of the list would be organic waste recycling and creating opportunities for residential recycling in apartments and condos.

"I think we're going to have to take several steps at once in moving toward that goal. It's an aggressive goal, it's a good goal and it means we have to be continuously improving," said Farrell.

Apartment dweller Amy Hipkin said having recycling in her building would be much more convenient.

"I probably would recycle even more," she said. "But if I knew that I didn't have to transport it somewhere and I could just take it out, it would be a lot easier for sure."

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Rocky View
CrossIron Mills

Donations by the decade

Mount Royal aims to aid a group for each decade university has been open

Mount Royal University is looking to give back to the community it has been a part of for 100 years.

Starting today, individuals can stop by the school's recreation entrance and drop off a donation to support one of 10 non-profit organizations.

"We did want to find a wide range of groups that people would want to get involved with and support," explained university spokesperson Steven Noble.

The staff at Mount Royal has already gotten behind the cause, as public relations outreach co-ordinator Elizabeth Lennox has convinced co-workers to donate in place of their normal faculty gift exchange.

"It's so hard to come up with ideas, so we thought 'Well let's do the charity thing instead,'" she said.

For more information, including what organizations are involved, visit mtroyal.ca/100.

JEREMY NOLAIS

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

▶ Elizabeth Lennox and Steven Noble

Alderman or councillor? What's in a name?

27 The number of women to date that have served as aldermen in Calgary. The first female to be elected was Hannah Elizabeth Rolinson Gale in 1917.

Calgary's aldermen may soon have a new title as city council prepares to vote on the change at today's meeting.

Ald. Shane Keating along with Ald. Dale Hodges have put forward a motion to change the title to councillor — a debate that has come to council before.

Keating said if the motion passes there would be minimal cost to the city.

"All the signs at city hall that are presently there that are usually changed at election time will stay exactly as they are," he said, explaining the new title would be phased in over the next three years as new signage, business cards, etc. are needed.

Ald. Gael MacLeod said it doesn't bother her as a female to be referred to as an alderman but said she will support the change.

"I've had so many emails to alder-woman, alder-person, alder-gal, alder-folk," she said with a laugh. "I think it's time and it just makes life easier."

METRO

DIDSBURY

Woman told police she shot husband

Police say they got a call from a woman claiming she'd shot her husband, and when they showed up they found a 68-year-old man dead.

A 60-year-old woman was apprehended at a rural home near Didsbury on Friday evening without incident.

RCMP Sgt. Tim Taniguchi says charges against the woman are likely, but he wouldn't speculate on what they'll be.

Investigators were still at the home on Saturday.

Didsbury is about 50 kilometres north of Calgary.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charges laid in pub robbery

Police have charged two men following a four-month investigation into a robbery at a local pub.

John Andrew Bentley of Calgary and Christopher John Holmberg of Okotoks both face numerous charges in relation to the Sept. 14 incident at Bruskeys Pub, located at 6534–4th St. NE.

METRO

Body found in Lethbridge

Lethbridge police have deemed the discovery of a man's body on Saturday morning as suspicious in nature.

A deceased male was found in an alleyway behind a strip mall located on the 400 block of 13th Street North. An autopsy will be completed tomorrow.

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Charity scams hurt the taxman

Charitable donation tax-receipt system open to abuse: CRA docs
Preparation fraud widespread

The Canada Revenue Agency is considering big changes to the way charities issue donation receipts after internal probes found widespread scamming, newly disclosed documents show.

Standard paper receipts now issued by charities are too easily faked, forged or finessed, cheating the federal treasury out of millions in taxes.

So some agency officials are proposing tougher rules requiring charities to electronically track and account for their receipts, to help the taxman flush out fraudsters.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Receipt revamp

The current receipt system is described as a "weakness."

- A spokesman for the agency declined to provide details of any changes being considered.
- One issue facing the agency is that many charities are small and poorly staffed, making an electronic filing regime a daunting prospect, says the internal paper.
- The agency said that 85 tax-preparer cases are currently being investigated, 31 of them involving alleged charity fraud.

Winter. Waves

▶ Blake Meisinger, 14, of Shorewood, Wis., takes advantage of the gusting winds and large waves on Lake Michigan yesterday, in Milwaukee, Wis.

KRISTYNA WENTZ-GRAFF/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL-SENTINEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winter weather pounds U.S. Midwest

A powerful winter storm roared across the upper Midwest yesterday with high winds and mounds of snow closing roads in several states and cancelling more than 1,400 flights in Chicago. The system dumped nearly 60 centimetres of snow in parts of Minnesota and caused the Metrodome's inflatable, Teflon roof to collapse.

Swedes horrified by suicide bombing

No one died except the suspected bomber, but two explosions in Sweden's capital tore at the fabric of this tolerant and open nation — a society that hadn't seen a terrorist attack in more than three decades.

Two people were wounded in central Stockholm on Saturday in what appeared to be the first suicide bombing in the history of Sweden, which has been spared the major terrorist strikes seen in other European countries.

A car exploded in the middle of the seasonal shopping frenzy, shooting flames and causing several smaller blasts as people ran screaming from the scene.

The blast that killed the alleged bomber came moments later a few blocks away on a busy pedestrian street.

Experts said the alleged bomber probably didn't succeed in detonating all the explosives and could have caused much greater damage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sudan investigates flogging

Sudan's judiciary opened an investigation into a video of a woman being flogged that has been widely circulated on the Internet, the state news agency reported yesterday.

The video shows a woman in a voluminous cloak on her knees screaming and pleading with blue-uniformed policemen, identified as Sudanese, who take turns whipping her. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

40 **In 2009, Sudanese journalist Lubna Hussein was sentenced to 40 lashes under the country's controversial indecency law for appearing in public wearing trousers.**

10 people hurt in Vancouver gang shooting

An apparent lull in Vancouver's gang violence was shattered early yesterday after a shooting that wounded 10 people and awoke residents to the sounds of gunfire.

Investigators were quick to label the shooting gang-related, but police haven't confirmed whether any of the victims were simply innocent bystanders caught up in the violence.

Vancouver police said shots rang out around 2 a.m. along a busy street that cuts through residential areas in the middle of the city.

When officers arrived, they found victims scattered across several city blocks.

"We're characterizing this as an outrageous display of gang violence," Const. Jana McGuinness said in an interview.

"This was in a public place — really, anyone on the street may have been caught up in this. At this early stage, we still don't know if some of them were innocents."

Six men and three women were in hospital, two of them critical. A 10th victim refused treatment.

At least five people were in custody, although McGuinness said that number could change. She said investigators were waiting to interview the shooting victims.

Richard Bruin, who lives along the street where the shooting took place, said his sleep was interrupted by gun shots. "Rat tat tat tat tat, and then a burst of more gunfire, people screaming," said Bruin. "My neighbour heard the gunshots and ran outside, he saw a couple of people running away."

Bruin said he's used to "constantly" hearing about shootings in the Vancouver area, but not where he lives.

"Too close to home," said Bruin. "There's a gang-land problem in Vancouver ... but this neighbourhood, rarely ever has anything happened. This is blowing everybody's minds."

"We know of these incidents in the last few months that have cropped up again. We've had a lull in Vancouver especially in 2010, compared to '09, and we have to remain vigilant," said McGuinness.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Violence flares

2010 has been a relatively quiet year for gang violence, especially compared to the gang war that raged throughout the Lower Mainland last year.

- The violence appeared to calm during much the past year, but there have been several incidents in recent months that have police on edge. They include the targeted murder of a gangster at a busy Burnaby, B.C., mall in October.
- Also in October, Vancouver police warned of potential gang violence over the Halloween weekend. There was indeed a shooting that weekend outside a nightclub in Vancouver's trendy Gastown district, injuring four people, although police later said it wasn't linked to gangs.
- Last week, the RCMP issued a news release warning of "an increase in gang tensions and instability" in the region.

News in brief

U of Alberta fraternity suspended

EDMONTON. A fraternity at the University of Alberta has been "provisionally suspended" by its parent organization for three years.

It follows allegations of hazing of prospective members, which include claims they were forced to eat their own vomit.

Delta Kappa Epsilon's website states the move follows a visit to the local chapter last month by a committee of four alumni.

The committee recommended an action plan that includes the suspension.

It says Delta Kappa Epsilon International will appoint an alumni council that will oversee all of the local chapter's affairs.

The University of Alberta announced its own investigation in October.

3 rallies point to tensions

Hundreds of people protested against the Russian government yesterday at two separate rallies in Moscow, with opposition activists calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and nationalists demanding greater rights for ethnic Russians. Several opposition activists were detained.

SERGEY PONOMAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Riot police detain protesters in Moscow.

A third rally with nationalist overtones drew more than 1,000 students in the southern city of Rostov-on-Don, raising fears that long-standing ethnic tensions were reaching a boiling point.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blast kills eight at NATO-Afghan base

An explosives-packed minibus blew up at the entrance of a joint NATO-Afghan base in southern Afghanistan yesterday, killing six NATO troops and two Afghan soldiers as they prepared to head out on patrol.

NATO has claimed improvements in security after months of raids, patrols and strikes on insurgents in Kandahar province, but yesterday's blast — the deadliest attack on coalition troops this month — shows the area is still far from safe.

The assault comes days ahead of a major White House review of its Afghan strategy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vatican felt 'offended': Latest leaks

Cables reveal behind-the-scenes reaction to Ireland's effort to question high-ranking churchmen

WIKI LEAKS

Newly released U.S. diplomatic cables indicate that the Vatican felt "offended" that Ireland failed to respect Holy See "sovereignty" by asking high-ranking churchmen to answer questions from an Irish government commission probing decades of sex abuse of minors by clergy.

That the Holy See used its diplomatic immunity status as a tiny-city state to try to thwart Ireland's government-led probe has long been known. But the WikiLeaks cables, published by the Guardian newspaper of London on Saturday, contain delicate, diplomatic assessments of the highly charged situation.

The Vatican press office declined to comment on the content of the cables Saturday, but decried the leaks as a matter of "extreme seriousness."

The U.S. ambassador to the Holy See also condemned the leaks and said in a statement that the Vatican and America co-operate in promoting universal values.

According to the deputy to the Irish ambassador to the Holy See, the Irish government gave in to Vatican pressure and allowed the church officials to avoid answering questions from the inquiry panel, according to one of the cables from a U.S. diplomat.

Ambassador Noel Fahey apparently told U.S. diplomat Julieta Valls Noyes that the sex abuse scandal was a tricky one to manage.

"The Vatican believes the Irish government failed to respect and protect Vatican sovereignty during the investigations," reads the cable from Noyes, deputy chief of mission.

Elsewhere in the cable the diplomat, citing a Holy See official, wrote that the inquiry commission's requests "offended many in the Vatican" because they were viewed as "an affront to Vatican sovereignty."

The diplomat also said that "adding insult to injury, Vatican officials also believed some Irish opposition politicians were making political hay with the situation by publicly calling on the government to demand that the Vatican reply."

The Irish government wanted to be seen as co-operating with the investigation because its own education department was implicated in decades of abuse, but politicians were reluctant to insist Vatican officials answer the investigators' questions, the cables indicate.

One cable discloses the behind-the-scenes diplomatic manoeuvres by which Irish politicians tried to persuade the Vatican to co-operate with the probe.

"In the end the Irish government decided not to press the Vatican reply," the U.S. diplomat wrote, citing Fahey's deputy, Helena Keleher.

Saturday's official Vatican press statement said the WikiLeaks cables "reflect the perceptions and opinions of the people who wrote them and cannot be considered as expressions of the Holy See itself." It added that the reports "reliability must, then, be evaluated carefully and with great prudence."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vatican relations

The cables also contain information regarding the Vatican's relations with the Anglican Communion, which includes the Church of England and its affiliates in more than 160 countries.

- One cable reports that Britain's ambassador to the Vatican warned that the pope's invitation to disaffected Anglicans to join the Catholic church had chilled relations between the two churches and risked inciting a violent backlash against British Catholics.
- A November 2009 file from U.S. Embassy at the Vatican quotes British envoy Francis Campbell as saying that "Anglican-Vatican relations were facing their worst crisis in 150 years as a result of the pope's decision."

New theory for space mystery

One of the solar system's mysteries — the origin of Saturn's rings — may be a case of cosmic murder.

The victim: an unnamed moon of Saturn that disappeared about 4.5 billion years ago.

The suspect: a disk of hydrogen gas that once surrounded Saturn when its dozens of moons were forming.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Babysitter arrested for sex crimes

Parents of dozens of preschool children in Amsterdam have been warned their children may have been abused by a baby sitter.

A 27-year-old suspect was arrested after a tip from U.S. authorities. He has confessed to dozens of sex crimes at two Amsterdam daycare centres over the past 18 months, police said yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Climate fund created

The Cancun Agreements, whose adoption by delegates to the latest UN climate talks was greeted by cheers and ovations early Saturday after two tortuous weeks of talks, created a Green Climate Fund to manage and disburse tens of billions of dollars a year, starting in 2020, for green development in poor countries.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sears
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RIM holds high hopes for PlayBook tablet

Firm's revenue estimated at $5.5 billion for Q3 and earnings per share at $1.68, says RBC analyst

▶ RIM's Mike Lazaridis

For Research In Motion, the future is all about PlayBook, the BlackBerry maker's answer to Apple's iPad, and whether it can help rejuvenate the smartphone company.

Research In Motion is expected to report strong results on Thursday, driven by international growth and improved sales in the North American market.

But, inevitably, the launch of the PlayBook early next year will be intrinsic to RIM's success in the new year and will be front and centre in any predictions made about its prospects.

"If they can lever the tablet to get back into the high end of the smartphone business, then the numbers are going to go up," telecom analyst Matthew Robison said.

The PlayBook is aimed at business users and will be used tethered to a BlackBerry, providing the same level of security for information on the tablet.

RIM is also expected to debut a brand new operating system for its tablet that will be used in future smartphones.

"It has the potent of really invigorating the market for RIM products," said Robison of Wunderlich Securities Inc. in San Francisco.

If the PlayBook performs in the field as well as the demos and paper specifications suggest, then it will be a strong multimedia device that will also attract a lot of consumer interest, Robison said.

He said if RIM doesn't execute on the PlayBook, the company will likely at least hold its own and grow moderately in the coming years.

Analysts expect the new BlackBerry Torch, which has both a touchscreen and slideout keyboard, will have helped to increase North American sales.

"We believe North America was better than many expect, with aggressive promotions by AT&T and Verizon for the holidays," BMO Capital Markets analyst Tim Long said in a research note.

Long believes RIM's business subscriber base in North America is continuing to grow, despite news about the company losing share.

RBC Capital Markets analyst Mike Abramsky said he expects RIM to beat analysts' expectations for the third-quarter of fiscal 2011, but noted that sentiment is expected to remain "polarized" over RIM's future.

"Execution remains the largest risk to our view," Abramsky wrote in a research note.

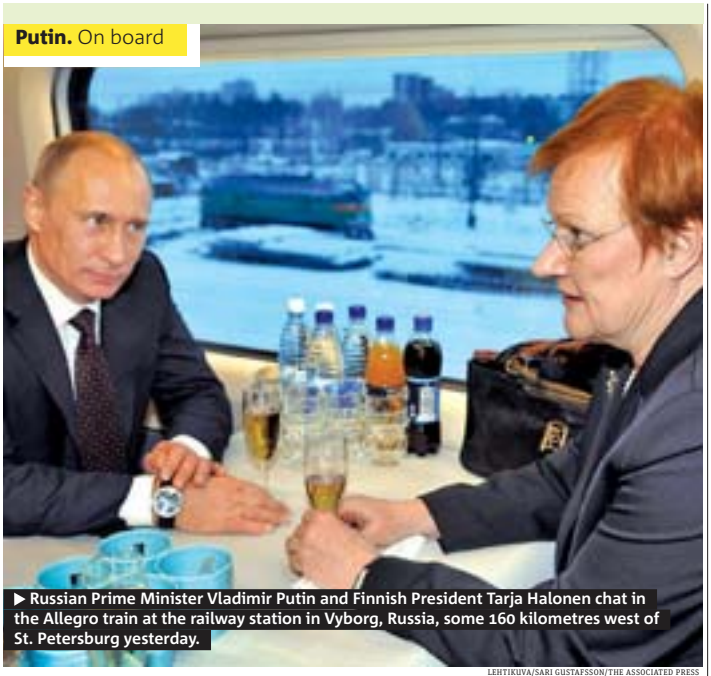
Abramsky has estimated revenue at $5.5 billion for the quarter and earnings per share at $1.68, above street estimates of $5.4 billion and $1.64 per share.

Other analysts haven't been optimistic about RIM's future.

Mark McKechnie of Gleacher & Co. has a price target of $70 US per share and recently lowered his rating for RIM shares to "underperform" from a buy rating.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Putin. On board


▶ Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and Finnish President Tarja Halonen chat in the Allegro train at the railway station in Vyborg, Russia, some 160 kilometres west of St. Petersburg yesterday.

LEHTIKUVA/SARI GUSTAFSSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EU, Russia hook up at high speed

Finnish President Tarja Halonen and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin inaugurated the first high-speed rail link between the EU and Russia as new trains start running between Helsinki and St. Petersburg, shortening travel time by nearly half, boosting business travel and tourism.

Canada, Europe talk trade

A controversial NAFTA provision that allows corporations to seek compensation from governments is likely to be included in any eventual free-trade deal with Europe, say sources close to the negotiations.

Representatives from Canada and Europe are scheduled to meet in Ottawa this week to prepare for the next round of negotiations aimed at finalizing a wide-reaching economic and trade agreement by the end of 2011. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. FRIDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 72.53 (13,239.47)	+ 0.11¢ (99.07¢ US)

Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft
– 58¢ US ($87.79 US)	$4.417 (– 1.8¢)

Gold contracts $1,384.90 (– $7.90)

For more business news, go online to metronews.ca

A PEEK INSIDE THE CHRISTMAS TOY ROOM

Urban Compass

JANICE PASKEY

Barb Higgins is moving fast through my neighbourhood.

My son found her discarded mayoral candidate sign. He's using it as a sleigh and stores it under the porch. "Nice and waxy," he says. But fraying.

So his Santa list includes a new toboggan, but also a laptop computer. His brother wants a cellphone and unlimited texting package.

So Santa expectation management is swinging into action.

I'm not the first to wonder how a religious holiday became a toy fest. And expensive electronics have upped the ante.

I thank the Three Wise Men for bringing Jesus only three gifts in total. "Look at the Bible," I tell my kids, three gifts is the accurate number to receive.

But there's no just fighting the pressure to provide a Christmas toy. Sorry, toys, plural.

Across the city, charities are working hard to ensure there's no kid without a gift on Dec. 25.

The Salvation Army's "adopt a family" program provides the most gifts. But families can only use this once.

For women who still need gifts for kids, the Women's Centre of Calgary tries to pick up the slack with its Toy Room, open through to Dec. 22.

Women who use the centre can try to find a toy for their child: Infant to 18 years of age.

"I may not like the way Christmas has become a commercial venture, but, like you, I hate the thought of a kid without a gift."

Like many agencies, demand is up and donations are down.

The Toy Room has 400 gifts and the agency expects it needs another 1,600, especially for eight- to 12-year-olds.

There's a huge amount of pressure on families to meet a "movie image" of Christmas, notes Women's Centre executive director Susan Gillies. "If you're the child that has nothing when everyone else is back in school talking about their gifts, it's pretty hard."

And non-Christian families? They need gifts, too. "There's incredible pressure to be involved, if not in the religious part, the gift-giving part, the meals," Gillies says.

I may not like the way Christmas has become a commercial venture, but, like you, I hate the thought of a kid without a gift.

For the Toy Room, I've packed up some new boys sport performance T-shirts, a few new board games, and some earring and necklace sets.

And Christmas in our house?

I suspect my son won't have any more fun on a new sleigh than on that waxy campaign sign.

The Women's Centre is located at 646 Ave. NE at Edmonton Trail, and its phone number is 403-264-1155.

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Worth mentioning

Look what the stork brought

GETTY IMAGES

Fossils of a giant stork have been discovered on a far-flung Indonesian island that has been home to many extreme-sized creatures — from tiny human-like "hobbits" and dwarf elephants to the world's largest-known rats and lizards.

Authors Hanneke Meijer and Rokus Due wrote in the December issue of the Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society that leg bones from the marabou stork, which lived 20,000 to 50,000 years ago, indicate it stood around six feet tall and weighed up to 35 pounds.

The bones were found during excavations of the Liang Bua cave in the west of the island of Flores at a depth of around 15 feet.

Flores, located on Indonesia's eastern edge, has never been connected to another island or mainland, shaping evolution of historic wildlife, with many small-sized warm blooded animals growing larger than elsewhere on the planet, and big-sized mammals becoming more diminutive, said Colin Groves, a professor at Australian National University who was not related to the study, citing the so-called "island rule" in biology.

With no mammalian carnivores, birds and reptiles faced less competition for food, accounting for some of their massive size.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Who is Canada's athlete of the year for 2010? Why?

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Metro Minute at holiday market

Calgary Dollars, a local, complementary currency system, is getting into the festive spirit with its holiday market this evening.

Socializing and shopping will be on the agenda and complementary appetizers will be provided. Calgary Dollars can be used to purchase all items for sale at the market.

The event runs from 6-8 p.m. at the Bow Cliff Seniors Centre, located at 608 Poplar Rd. SW.

If you can't make it out this evening, the centre will also host markets in the new year on Jan. 10 and Feb. 14.

For more information about the market, visit calgarydollars.ca or bowcliff-seniors.org.

METRO

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Vendors' creations will be on display this evening as Calgary Dollars hosts a holiday market.

2 scene

Portrait of a prince with his 'princess'

William and Kate pose for official photos to celebrate engagement
Same photographer took photos of Diana just before she died

Prince William and Kate Middleton look relaxed, poised and very much in love in official photos released to mark their engagement.

One of the two images by Mario Testino shows the couple, dressed in jeans and casual tops, smiling in each others' arms. The other, more formal, depicts them standing together in a state room at St. James's Palace.

The pictures, released yesterday by the prince's office, were taken by fashion photographer Testino, a royal family favourite who captured some of the most iconic images of William's late mother, Princess Diana.

Testino said the couple appeared "in their prime and brimming with happiness" when he photographed them on Nov. 25.

"I have never felt so much joy as when I see them together," he said.

The Peruvian photographer, who made his name shooting models like Kate Moss, took a series of glamorous black-and-white images of Diana that were published in Vanity Fair in 1997, shortly before her death in a Paris car crash.

William, who is second in line to the British throne, has inherited his mother's poise. In both pictures he and Middleton appear entirely comfortable with the camera and each other.

William and Middleton, both 28, announced last month that they will marry on April 29 at Westminster Abbey in London.

Testino has often photographed members of the royal family, taking portraits to mark Prince William's 21st birthday in 2003 and his younger brother Prince Harry's 20th birthday the next year. He also has photographed their father, Prince Charles, for Vogue magazine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLARENCE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE/COPYRIGHT 2010 MARIO TESTINO, HO

CLARENCE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE/COPYRIGHT 2010 MARIO TESTINO, HO

▶ The two official portrait photographs taken on Nov. 25, 2010 in the Council Chamber in the State Apartment in St James's Palace, London and released by Clarence House Press Office yesterday to mark the engagement of Britain's Prince William, left, and Catherine Middleton.

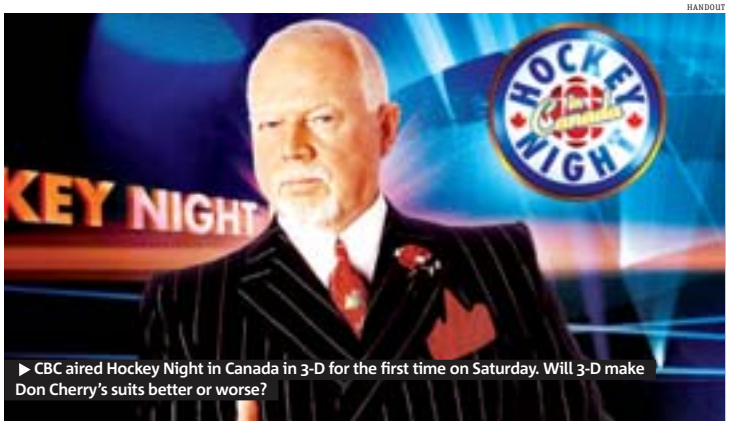
News in brief

Performers in two overseas crime dramas won supporting-actor honours from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, while the Facebook tale The Social Network earned two prizes yesterday. Jacki Weaver was named best supporting actress for Australia's Animal Kingdom. Niles Arestrup won for supporting actor for a Prophet. Aaron Sorkin won best screenplay for The Social Network, whose composers Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross shared the award for best musical score with Alexandre Desplat for The Ghost Writer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

David Hasselhoff's reality show, The Hasselhoffs was cancelled after just two episodes aired

HANDOUT



▶ CBC aired Hockey Night in Canada in 3-D for the first time on Saturday. Will 3-D make Don Cherry's suits better or worse?

CBC's 3-D hockey still has some kinks to iron out

◗ Too much hype for new technology ◗ Cameras did not always offer the best angles to watch game action

Saturday marked CBC's first foray into 3-D for Hockey Night In Canada — and unfortunately, it showed.

The Canadian Press reviewed the game with a new 3-D TV on loan from Panasonic, the sponsor of the inaugural 3-D hockey broadcast, and after several days of watching all kinds of different content and seeing how cool 3-D can look, Hockey Night in Canada was a bit disappointing.

The broadcast had its moments and the potential for using 3-D in future games was clear, but the quality of presentation was far from perfect. And CBC's nonstop shilling for the technology made it feel like an infomercial for 3-D with hockey squeezed in.

Ron MacLean was quoted as saying he thinks 3-D will have 10 times the impact high definition did, and Kelly Hrudey kicked off the show by saying, "It is the wave of the future; it's not a gimmick."

Hopefully by the time CBC's next 3-D broadcast rolls around — on Feb. 20, when the Calgary Flames host the Montreal Canadiens for the outdoor Heritage Classic from McMahon Stadium — they'll just let the technology speak for itself.

Hockey fans thinking they might want to get in on the next 3-D game should know what to expect. Watching a game in 3-D isn't about sensing that pucks are coming through the screen. The real experience is the enhanced sense of depth that makes it feel like you can see deep into the screen.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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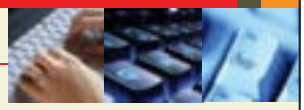

- **Introduction to Computers - 3 Hour (FREE)**
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  2 Saturdays, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm (February 5 & 12, 2011)
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- **MS Word 2007 (Foundation)**
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CALGARY LEARNS

Feel like everyone's looking at you? They are. But don't worry. It's only because they want your Metro.

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News worth sharing.

Cyrus caught on tape smoking bong

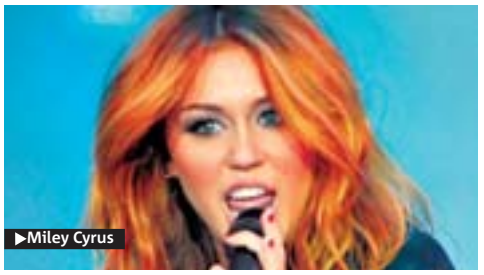
Miley Cyrus is growing up fast, as a leaked video of the Disney star smoking a bong proves.

Sources tell TMZ Cyrus is smoking the legal psychedelic herb salvia in the video, which was shot by one of her friends.

"I'm having a little bit of a bad trip," Cyrus says in the video before devolving into a fit of laughter.

The video was reportedly shot at a party at Cyrus' house five days after her 18th birthday.

METRO


▶Miley Cyrus

Friend outs Travolta?

Actress Carrie Fisher is calling John Travolta out on threatening to sue Gawker.com for publishing reports that he takes part in clandestine same-sex encounters.

"We don't really care that John Travolta is gay," Fisher told the Advocate in an earlier interview.

When asked about Travolta's response to the Gawker posts, she said, "Look, I'm sorry that he's uncomfortable with it, and that's all I can say.

"It only draws more attention to it when you make that kind of legal fuss. Just leave it be."

METRO

▶John Travolta

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ Nicole Richie and Joel Madden were married over the weekend.

make it official

The celeb couple was married over the weekend

After four years together — and two children — Nicole Richie and Joel Madden tied the knot this weekend at Lionel Richie's home in Los Angeles, according to People magazine.

"They wanted an Old Hollywood, glamorous feel to their wedding," a source says. "Nicole wanted a memorable, elegant affair for only their closest friends and family on their special day."

Richie reportedly managed to get bids for exclusive photos of the wedding up to $100,000 by "playing the weekly magazines against each other," a source tells Page Six.

METRO

Lohan puts her foot down

Lindsay Lohan reportedly didn't appreciate having to pay up for extra security at the Betty Ford Center, according to TMZ.

Sources say the clinic was charging Lohan $500 a day for additional guards, although Lohan complained that the hired muscle wasn't showing up on time for work.

After some discussion, the clinic is reportedly no longer charging her for security.

METRO

▶Lohan

Celebrity tweets

Ryan Seacrest [@RyanSeacrest]
There's something about a sunny 90 degrees in LA that screams xmas

Kelly Osbourne [@MissKellyO]
"oh my god your so much prettier in real life" is not a compliment when you have the face of smelling something bad!!!

Elizabeth Banks [@ElizabethBanks]
Nothing worse than going for the shake, getting the "we're closer than that!" look followed by uncomfortable hug.

Talking points

Ryder's tech illiteracy

Winona Ryder insists she's far from tech-savvy.

"I don't use the Internet ..." she tells Elle magazine.

"I have my email on my BlackBerry, and that's about it. I've never read a blog, ever."

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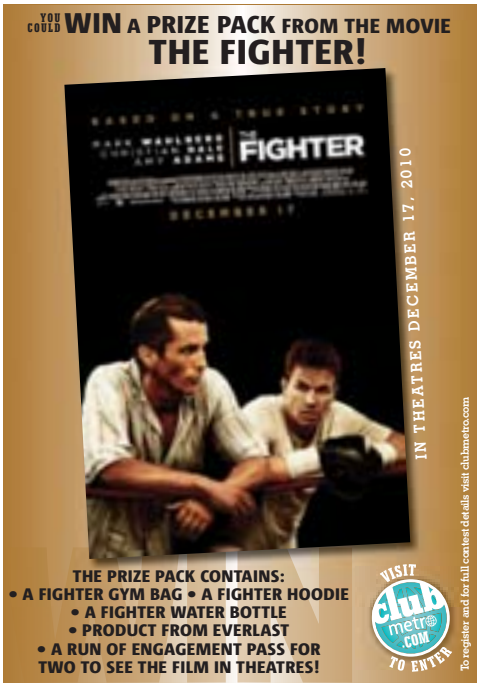
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3 life

Jaden & Willow Smith: kids of Will Smith & Jada Pinkett Smith

Chloe Moretz: Willow & Chloe were both nominated in an acting category at the 2008 Young Artist Awards — and neither won

Kodi Smit-McPhee: Chloe stars alongside Kodi in this autumn's horror flick Let Me In

Callan McAuliffe: Both Kodi & Callan are famous young actors from Australia

From point-and-shoot to high-end digital SLR cameras, here's a selection that stands out from the crowd.

2030: A futuristic forecast

Crime-fighting robots, 'car trains' on highways and food-sniffing aliens ◐ An eight-year-old and a futurist imagine life in 2030 ◐ What they agree on: space travel will be a norm

ELISABETH BRAW
METRO WORLD NEWS

Twenty years ago, nobody would have imagined smartphones, Facebook or even Google. Hybrid cars were far from reality, as was living on the International Space Station. Are we better at predicting the future today? Metro asked eight-year-old Londoner Calder Christopher and futurist Chris Carbone to envision what our daily lives will look like in the future. Be sure to check back in 20 years to see how accurate their predictions were.

DAVID SALAS

▶ With touch screen computers in use, stationary may look archaic in the not-so-distant future.

Transport

Christopher: Cars will fly and there will be a new way of getting around using a box you step on to that takes you places. Airplanes will be able to go into outer space.
Carbone: People will link their cars to rapid transit systems, where cars travel together at an automated speed. To make an exit, you'll just instruct the car to leave the "car train."

Jobs

Christopher: Spaceships will fly people to outer space where they work. Aliens will smell new food to see if they're edible for humans.
Carbone: New jobs will exist in nano- and neurotechnology, areas that study how the brain interacts with things like computer devices and pharmaceuticals.

Communications

Christopher: There will be a phone that shows the person's face when someone wants to chat with them.
Carbone: Whoever you want to talk to will be instantly available. Youngsters will want to be always connected to their network, primarily using smartphones.

Housing

Christopher: People will live in buildings that look like big temples — one section of the temple for each family.
Carbone: People will still live in the types of houses you see today, but they'll use less electricity and water. Every home will harvest its own energy as well.

Schools

Christopher: Schools will look the same on the outside as today, but there will be more stuff inside the buildings. Everyone will have an iPad. It will be cool!
Carbone: Children will have a personalized digital learning record that will follow them throughout their education — in a similar fashion to people today who have to constantly updated their profile on Facebook.

Best innovations

Christopher: There will be a gadget that you'll tell, "clean my room" and he'll do it. Police will have robots that catch bad guys.
Carbone: Biometrics will be used as payment. You'll just to go a machine that will scan your retina or fingerprint. Cash machines will become obsolete.

Mom, what's a typewriter?

DANIEL HOLLOWAY
METRO WORLD NEWS

Our quest for faster, simpler and smaller ways of doing things will force many of our everyday items the way of the dodo ◐ Top 10 list of what's on the way out

CASH

Even vending machines take credit cards now. When you don't need coins to buy a Coke while you wait for an oil change, what's the point?

DICTIONARIES

Dictionaries are really heavy. Dictionary.com is not.

WATCHES

Everybody has a cellphone. Every cellphone has a clock on it. Duh.

BOOKS

Remember books? They were those things that people used to read before the iPad appeared. They took up space and were highly flammable.

FILM

And for those who insist on using a camera that you can't also make an outgoing call from, film is a thing of the past.

MAPS

GPS technology allows even the most wayward traveller to see where he or she is at any given moment, making paper maps obsolete — and no less impossible to fold.

CAMERAS

Remember how we said that cellphones had rendered watches pointless? The same applies to these things.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Call us optimistic (or naïve), but we think it's possible for nukes to disappear in the next 20 years — and that humanity will come up with more horrible ways to annihilate itself.

POLAR BEARS

In the future, you will tell your children stories of white bears who used to prowl the polar ice and kill baby seals. Your kids will respond by asking, "Polar ice? Seals?"

TYPEWRITERS

Does anyone even own a typewriter anymore? Anyone besides that old lady from Murder, She Wrote?

Author celebrates Canadian cuisine

Feasting and Fasting gives readers a taste of what our ancestors' ate and drank Stories and recipes show how special occasions were observed

The importance of celebrations throughout Canada's history was marked Monday night when Dorothy Duncan, author of several books on the country's culinary heritage, was honoured.

The event at Toronto's Fort York National Historic Site was held to launch the culinary historian's latest book, Feasting and Fasting: Canada's Heritage Celebrations.

"Hopefully this book will make readers think about their own traditions, their own family and the things that are and were important to them."
DOROTHY DUNCAN, AUTHOR

The book is an introduction to the foods and beverages that were a central part of our ancestors' celebrations. It begins with the new year and takes readers through each calendar month.

There are stories and recipes for everything from Chinese New Year to Lent and the significance of maple syrup as the harbinger of spring.

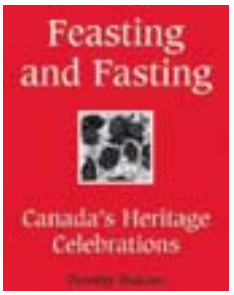
Duncan traces the country's culinary heritage back to the 18th century when people marked Christmas, or another type of celebration, that brought family and friends together.

"The setting aside of time and the gifts of food made out of love with their own hands was paramount to our ancestors, some of whom had come from far away to colonize Canada," she said in an interview ahead of the launch.

Duncan found in her research, for example, that it was common for weddings to be held to coincide with the festive season.

"Nowadays we focus on June weddings, but in the early days, many were performed at Christmas because the families would all be gathered together," she says. "It was a convenient time to have them all around you."

Duncan, who worked as a culinary historian for Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto as well as the Toronto Historical Board, has spent many years collecting data for the book.



She is dedicated to working with organizations across Canada and around the world to ensure that this country's culinary history is recognized, researched and recorded.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Succulent lamb is a perfect winter treat

CONTRIBUTED

This sinful dish is sure to impress.

Noisettes of lamb with port

Serve saucy lamb loin dish to special guests at your next winter dinner.

Ingredients:

- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
- 8 noisettes of lamb or 4 lamb leg steaks

Sauce:

- 30 to 45 ml (2 to 3 tbsp) port wine
- 125 g (4 oz) frozen black currants
- 10 to 15 ml (2 to 3 tsp) sugar
- 75 g (2 1/2 oz) extra creamy blue cheese, crumbled

Preparation:

1. In a large frying pan, heat oil; fry lamb for 2 to 3 minutes each side or according to taste. Remove from pan and keep warm.
2. Reduce heat and add port to pan juices with black currants and sugar.
3. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes until syrupy.
4. Stir in cheese, allowing it to melt in the heat of the sauce, and serve over lamb. Makes 4 servings.

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NOT ALL TOILET PAPER IS CREATED EQUAL

Question: I found two brands of what claimed to be 100 per cent recycled toilet paper. One was much more expensive than the bigger name brand. Are all recycled paper products considered equal? Sacha, Vancouver

You're correct in suspecting that not all recycled paper products — from toilet paper to office paper — are created equal. To make sense of paper labels, you should choose paper products that leave the most trees in the forest.

When a claim reads "100 per cent recycled," the recycled content can come from one of two sources. The best choice is toilet and other paper products made from 100 per cent post-consumer waste (PCW) because it is made from resources that have already been extracted, reused and kept out of the waste stream.

PCW refers to paper made from the flyers or envelopes that you've recycled. The PCW content in paper products will vary from 10 to 100 per cent. Choose the highest!

The less desirable choice is made from pre-consumer waste, or the scraps left over after paper processing — trim from newspapers or printing overruns. But it's still a better choice than paper made from virgin pulp.

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Recycling water in space

Every drop of water aboard the International Space Station is precious So astronauts go to the extreme They drink recycled water from urine

Don Pettit doesn't mind drinking his own urine — or his sweat, for that matter. Pettit is far from insane. As an astronaut, he has no choice but to drink all available fluids.

"You make water inside your body, through your breath and your sweat," explains Pettit, a veteran NASA astronaut who has lived on the International Space Station for six months. "On the ISS you capture all of that water and recycle it."

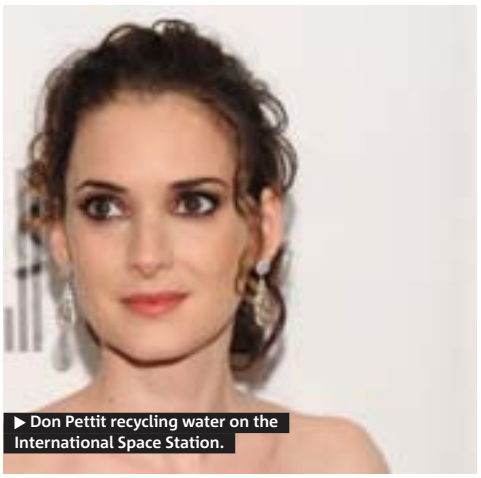
Astronauts are each allowed only 3.5 litres of water per day — for hygiene and food combined. They wash themselves using wet wipes, and so they consume 92 per cent less water on hygiene than Earth-dwellers.

Recently the ISS cut its need for water supplies by 65 per cent after installing a state-of-the-art water-recycling machine. "It captures your breath, sweat and water from damp cloths and turns it into water," says Pettit.

There's also a urine processor, which turns 80 per cent of urine into drinkable water. "You can dehydrate your breakfast and make your coffee with water from the processor," says Pettit.

Earth-dwellers may follow suit. One study shows that 75 to 85 per cent of people in Western European countries would consider using urine-diversion toilets, which allow urine to be recycled.

Radical water reuse may be more palatable than it sounds, as Pettit insists: "Recycled urine tastes like bottled water." METRO



▶ Don Pettit recycling water on the International Space Station.

TurningPoint

TERESA KRUZE
TURNINGPOINTMEDIA.CA

LIFE IS SWEET FOR THIS CHOCOLATIER

The beautiful little chocolate shop is tucked into a strip mall in one of Toronto's most exclusive neighbourhoods.

On the front door is a sign that reads, "I believe ... that you can keep going long after you think you can't."

The author of the quote is unknown, but it is the mantra of the owner, a woman as beautiful as the tasty chocolates she has sold for the past 25 years.

When you first meet Ingrid Laederach Steven you would never know the traumatic turning points that have shaped her life.

As a teen, her dream of becoming a professional singer was dashed when she damaged her vocal cords.

She suffered a life threatening heart attack on an airplane and went through seven miscarriages while trying to start a family.

"I kept persevering," Ingrid says. "I kept telling myself, it's going to happen, it's going to happen."

These were dark moments for Ingrid but she knew that life would get better. Then she opened up Swiss Master Chocolatier in Toronto.

Hollywood celebrities, presidents, royalty, a pope and even astronauts have all nibbled her amazing truffles and treats.

As you read Ingrid's story, the "I believe" sign on her front door takes on a new meaning. Remember the seven miscarriages? Ingrid finally gave birth to two beautiful daughters, and now she has a family of four grandchildren to spoil and love.

"Every day I realize I'm lucky. So lucky," she says.

But for us looking in on Ingrid's life, we realize we're the lucky ones. She's shown us that not all turning points in life are happy ones, but with a little dose of optimism, hope — and a few chocolates — we can all believe.

Knowledge is tasty

- The first people to make chocolate were the ancient tribes of Mexico and Central America.
- The first chocolate bar was created in 1842 by Cadbury.
- The average person will consume 10,000 chocolate bars in a lifetime.
- People spend more than $7 billion annually on chocolate.
- The Swiss consume more chocolate per capita than any other nation.

PARNJIT PARMAR/MONTANA RIDGE ENT.

▶ Ingrid Laederach Steven at Swiss Master Chocolatier.

Did you know? Dark chocolate can be good for you

Dark chocolate contains antioxidants that can guard against the onset of cancer and heart disease, and tryptophan, making it a natural antidepressant.

Georgetown University researchers found that when breast cancer cells were treated with chocolate flavonols, the cells stopped dividing.

The University of Nottingham found flavonol-rich cocoa increases blood flow to the brain which could combat dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

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Resolve to read in 2011

Plenty of ways to keep your reading and writing skills in top shape

This year, why not make your resolution one for life-long learning? ABC Life Literacy Canada shows you how.

• Take a course or upgrade your skills. People with higher literacy skills earn more income, are less likely to be unemployed and are more likely to find full-time work. To find help with reading, writing and math, visit LookUnderLearn.ca.

• Exercise your mind. Challenge yourself by doing the daily crossword or Sudoku puzzle.

• Read aloud together, no matter how old you are. Reading ability is like a muscle — if you don't exercise it often, you may not be able to maintain the same level of reading ability as you age. Encourage all family members to read and discuss items from papers and websites to keep up-to-date on what is happening around the world.

• Keep a journal to express your thoughts and polish your writing skills. Or, send a handwritten letter or note to a friend, relative or co-worker.

▶ Make increased literacy a part of your New Year's resolutions.

• Teach kids how to save. Take time to open a savings account for your child. Consider seeding it with a few dollars and then have them put a portion of their allowance or earned money in the account. This is a great way to get them in the healthy habit of saving and thinking about achieving financial goals.

• Give the gift of words. Need inspiration for a birthday, wedding or anniversary gifts this year? Why not give magazine subscriptions, books, or make a donation to a literacy organization in your community?

• Start a book club. Spend time with some of your favourite people talking about your favourite characters. Go online for tips on getting started.

• Be a mentor. Offer to proofread homework or verify math answers after your child has done the work.

• Participate in Family Literacy Day. On January 27, 2011, thousands of Canadians will take part in Family Literacy Day events in schools, libraries, literacy organizations and homes across the country. Find out how to join in at familyliteracyday.ca. NEWS CANADA

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• Review the procedures and efficacy of our distribution contractors and hand-promoters, ensuring they are adhering to Metro's policies.
• Seek and implement new distribution opportunities and locations within the general area

REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION:
• Knowledge of distribution strategies for news/print media preferred
• Strong reporting skills using Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel
• Strong computer and email skills
• Excellent communication skills
• Ability to work at irregular hours (some evening work required)
• Assertive self-starter with own vehicle
• An adequate team player with an adaptable attitude

Individuals interested and having the skills described are requested to submit their resume and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than December 17, 2010. PLEASE QUOTE: "DISTRIBUTION AUDITOR - CALGARY" in the subject line. All submissions will be treated as confidential.

metro

The heart and sole of human motion

University of Guelph researcher studying astronauts' feet **Project aimed at helping elderly keep balance**

Canada's last space research project on the U.S. Space Shuttle has a down-to-earth goal: to delve into the role our feet play in keeping our balance as we age.

Known as Hypersole, the experiment began when Dr. Leah Bent of the University of Guelph learned that some astronauts experience tingling in their feet.

"On Earth, our skin sensitivity decreases as we age. One of the interesting things about the skin during space travel is that we see changes in the opposite direction: skin sensitivity may actually increase," she explains.

Funded by the Canadian Space Agency, Hypersole will help scientists better understand how the decline in skin sensitivity in our feet leads to a loss of balance — and consequently, a greater number of falls — in the elderly.

NASA

▶ The Space Shuttle Discovery on its way to the launch pad.

Bent will use tiny nylon filaments and a vibration device to put astronauts to the ultimate "tickle test" to see which parts of their feet become more sensitive before and after spaceflight, and how that might affect their balance.

Three astronauts have already participated in the experiment. Bent and her team will test six more before and after the last flights of the Space Shuttle in November 2010 and winter 2011.

In addition to the ageing population, Hypersole could help astronauts themselves by providing more information on how they maintain their balance while living and working in space.

When asked if she has any advice on keeping your feet and skin receptors functioning and healthy, Bent says, "My Nana is 97 and she rubs cream into the bottom of her feet every day and every night. And I tell her, that's why you're still able to walk around!"

NEWS CANADA

DJs decking the airwaves with holiday carols

It's not quite 8 a.m. but Erin Davis and Mike Cooper have already been awake for four hours.

Inside the CHFI-FM studio the chipper morning crew of Toronto's all-Christmas music station prepares to play today's "Feel Good Favourite" song request.

Usually it's an up-tempo, happy tune for people to bop along to on the way to work, but Christmas brings out more sentimentality.

A few days earlier, a mother called the station to say her teenage son was battling cancer and getting his last radiation treatment that day.

She requested his favourite Christmas song, Bing Crosby's Mele Kalikimaka, as "a big happy hug to my son for crossing the finish line."

On this day, another mother has requested Jingle Bell Rock so her two-year-old daughter can get down with the beat.

The station has been playing nothing but Christmas music since Nov. 21. And the hosts love it.

Besides a couple of stray Santa hats and a wreath on the wall the studio doesn't look particularly festive.

ALEX HORKAY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ CHFI-FM Morning Show co-hosts Erin Davis, far left, and Mike Cooper, far right.

Hosts and producers sit around a cluster of electronics and computers with a TV and surviving VCR in a corner of the ceiling.

The hosts, however, are wearing bright, Santa-red shirts. Davis sports some funky boots and a pair of jingle bell earrings.

Producer Ian MacArthur says they sound like wind chimes.

"I've heard that little clinking all day and I thought somebody had glasses," says Cooper.

As Amy Grant croons It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year, Davis sings some mangled lyrics off-air: "It's the most wonderful time for a beer."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Maximize your accounting career potential

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta is offering courses to help you learn the language skills you need to be successful in your accounting career.

If you are an accounting student or accounting professional whose first language is not English, these courses have been specifically designed for you. Learn the basics of Canadian business language (spoken and written) and culture to help navigate through today's complex business world. Courses are offered in both Edmonton and Calgary on Tuesday evenings.

Classes begin January 18

To find out more, or to register, go to **www.albertaCAs.ca.**

CA Chartered Accountants of Alberta

Youth left behind in economic recovery

Youth jobless rate a litmus test of job market strength By that measure, Canada has a long way to go: Analysts

Canada's falling unemployment rate is hiding an unpleasant truth — tens of thousands are leaving the labour market in frustration, and none more so than young workers.

Last week's labour force survey for November presented a distorted hall-of-mirrors picture of employment — with the jobless rate falling to a two year low of 7.6 per cent on the strength of little job creation.

For young workers in the 15 to 24-year-old category, the picture was even more distorted — the unemployment rate plummeted from 15 per cent to 13.6 per cent with virtually no new jobs added.

The mathematical disconnect comes about because Statistics Canada does not measure the number of workers against those who want jobs, but against those who are actively seeking work. There have been fewer of those.

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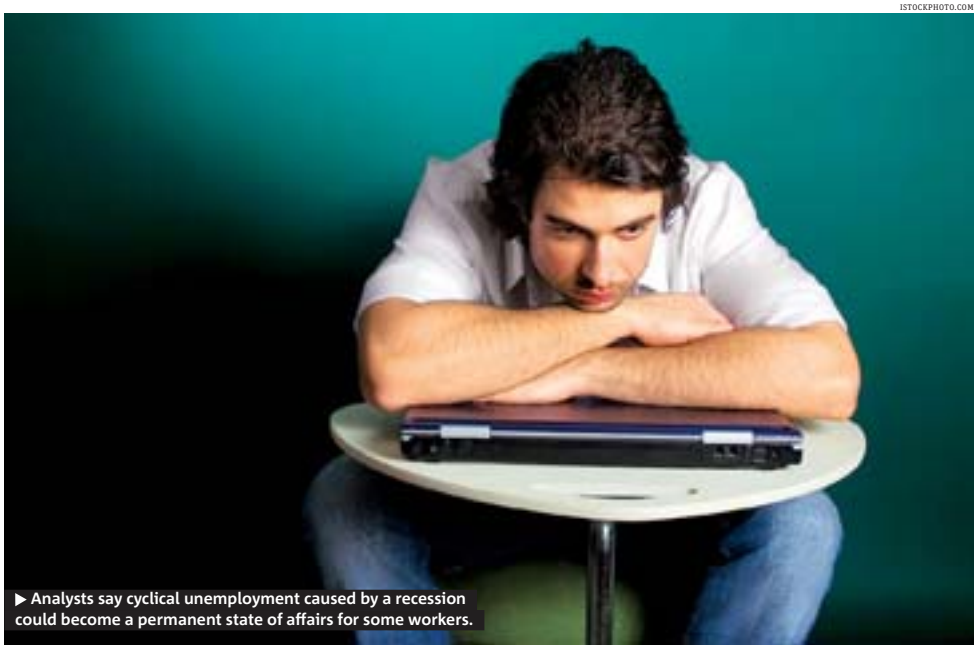


▶ Analysts say cyclical unemployment caused by a recession could become a permanent state of affairs for some workers.

Young people are leaving the labour force in droves. According to the agency, the youth participation rate is the lowest in over a decade.

What's more, while the economy has created over 440,000 jobs since the recession there are 228,000 fewer young people employed.

Statistics Canada cannot say for certain why more young people have been leaving the workforce, although analyst Lahouaria Yssaad notes that since the numbers are not as stark in the over 20-24 age sub-category, many in the youngest cohort may have gone back to school.

What is obvious, however, is that young people were disproportionately left behind during the recession, and one year removed from the official start of the recovery, they are still having a difficult time re-connecting with the economy.

Nancy Schaefer, president of Youth Employment Services in Toronto, calls it a "crisis" in youth unemployment, and is calling on governments to offer incentives for employers to hire young workers.

YES, which has units across the country, sees the wide range of youth, from those who have never had a job to those who were laid off during the downturn; from those with little education, to graduates. Many struggle, she says, but particularly those with less than a college or university education.

Despite the increased numbers of young workers seeking more training, data suggests the odds of finding a job quickly are slim. Schaefer says she's seen university grads take up to a year to find a job, and many have had to settle for part-time or work outside their area of expertise. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bulge of boomers

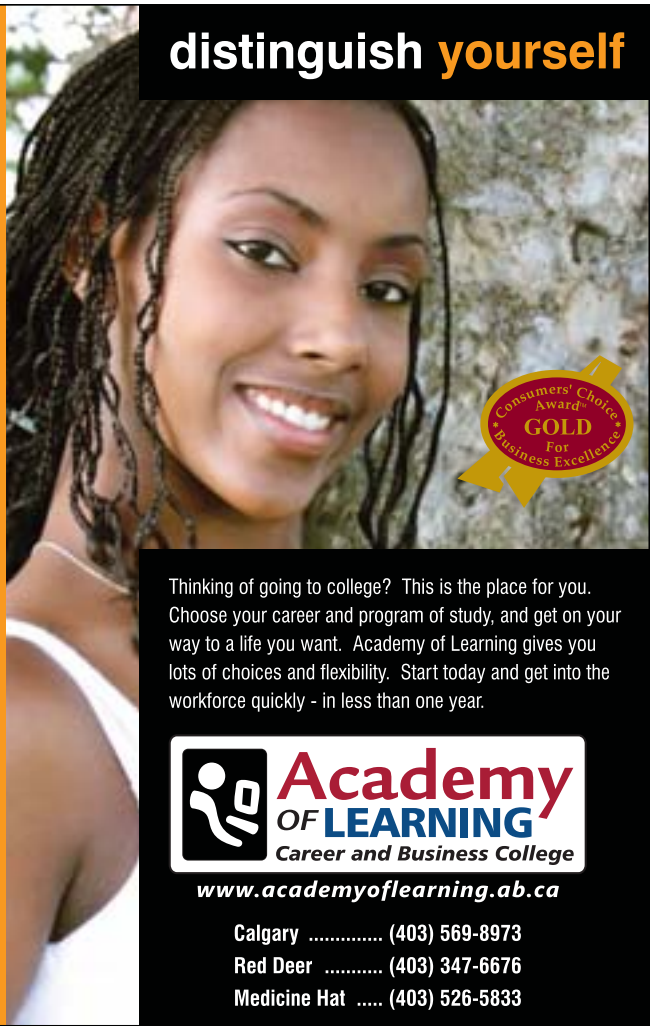
As governments consider raising the retirement age, young people can't break into the market because older workers are tying up jobs, according to Canadian Auto Workers economist Jim Stanford.

- Ironically, Canadians 55 and over have done the best since the recession and are the only age group that has seen the participation rate rise in the past year.
- "There's an inter-generational imbalance happening. You have a big bulge of baby boomers who have gotten into established positions entitled to three and four weeks vacation and young people can't find jobs," said Brian Bethune, chief Canadian economist with IHS Global Insight.

9.1%

Stanford's analysis of labour trends suggests if the lower participation among youth workers and those in the 25-54 age category are taken into account, the jobless rate would be 9.1 per cent, 1.5 per cent higher than the official rate.

Health Care - Business - Technology



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NFL finds itself under the weather

Vikings game moved after dome collapses Snow threatens to derail Bears-Pats contest in Chicago

Snow, wind, ice, rain: December in the NFL.

Not even indoor games are safe.

Weather has played havoc with the NFL's Week 14 schedule, with the Giants' game at Minnesota already postponed from yesterday to tonight and moved to Detroit. New England's game at Chicago's Soldier Field was threatened by whiteout conditions and the field constantly needed shovelling.

The Giants never made it to Minneapolis, stranded in Kansas City after a blizzard hit the Twin Cities, causing the Metrodome roof to collapse for the fourth time, but the first time since 1983. Heavy snows also caused the previous failures.

"There were no injuries, which we're thankful for," said Bill Lester, executive director of the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission.

With the switch of the game to Ford Field, where the Lions were playing the Packers yesterday afternoon, the NFL said fans with tickets to that game could use their ticket for a free admission to Giants-Vikings, with no reserved seating.

Makes one wonder if Packers fans who travelled to Detroit would stick around to boo Brett Favre — presuming he is recovered from a right shoulder injury enough to keep his record consecutive starts streak going.

25 C

The folks in San Diego heading to the Chiefs-Chargers game might have chuckled at it all. It was hot and sunny, with temperatures around 25 C.

The league also said free general admission tickets for other fans who want to watch the Giants and Vikings will be available in Detroit.

"We're going to work to make this as accommodating of a game for both teams, but particularly the Vikings, since it is their home game that is being lost," Lions president Tom Lewand said.

The problems in Chicago were high winds that swirled around the snow. Grounds crew members shovelled off the yard lines early in the game. But the stands were nearly full for the matchup of first-place teams.

Temperature 90 minutes before kickoff was - 2 C, with winds at 55 km/h gusting to 85. The forecast called for snow with temperatures dropping down to - 5 C and the winds at 50 km/h, with 80 km/h gusts and poor visibility.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANN HEISENFELT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Snow falls onto the field from a hole in the collapsed roof of the Metrodome in Minneapolis.

Lowly Lions finally beat a division rival

The Green Bay Packers couldn't find the end zone without Aaron Rodgers' arm to carry them.

The Lions knocked Rodgers out of the game and snapped a trio of dubious streaks in a 7-3 win yesterday. Drew Stanton threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to tight end Will Heller midway through the fourth quarter and Detroit held on.

LIONS	PACKERS
7	3

Rodgers started his 45th straight game in the regular season since replacing Brett Favre in 2008, but that streak might be in jeopardy because of his second concussion this season.

The Lions (3-10) snapped a five-game losing streak overall, a 10-game slide against Green Bay and a 19-game skid against the NFC North in what was the NFL's worst slump within a division since the merger four decades ago.

Detroit's last division win was Oct. 28, 2007, at Chicago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Patriots 36, Bears 7

Tom Brady threw for 369 yards and two touchdowns, and the New England Patriots locked up their eighth playoff berth in 10 years with a pounding of the Chicago Bears on a snowy, blustery, bone-chilling Sunday. The win was the fifth straight for the Patriots (11-2).

Bills 13, Browns 6

Ryan Fitzpatrick threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to David Nelson and Leodis McKelvin made a late interception for Buffalo. Rian Lindell hit field goals of 30 and 19 yards to help the Bills (3-11) snap a three-game losing streak against Cleveland. The Browns (5-8) were eliminated from playoff contention.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 sports

Quoted

"It's not me against Calgary. It's the Toronto Maple Leafs who are going in there. It's a big trip. We're not even looking at that game right now."

DION PHANEUF, ON THE LEAFS' GAME IN CALGARY THURSDAY.

"For Dion, it's obviously going to be big. I think it's going to be crazy. I think fans in Calgary still appreciate him quite a bit so I'd be surprised if he got booed."

TEAMMATE FREDRIK SJOSTROM

Scan code for more sports

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Pittsburgh	31	21	8	2	0	101	71	44	10-5-1-0	11-3-1-0	10-0-0-0	W12
d-Washington	32	18	11	1	2	98	92	39	12-4-0-2	6-7-1-0	4-5-0-1	L6
d-Montreal	30	18	10	2	0	78	61	38	11-4-2-0	7-6-0-0	5-4-1-0	L2
Philadelphia	31	19	7	2	3	105	76	43	10-5-0-2	9-2-2-1	6-1-0-3	W2
NY Rangers	32	18	13	1	0	96	93	37	7-8-1-0	11-5-0-0	6-4-0-0	W1
Boston	28	16	8	1	3	81	56	36	7-5-1-2	9-3-0-1	5-3-1-1	L1
Tampa Bay	30	16	10	2	2	94	106	36	7-2-1-1	9-8-1-1	6-2-0-2	W1
Atlanta	30	16	11	1	2	95	88	35	9-6-0-1	7-5-1-1	8-2-0-0	W1
Carolina	28	12	12	0	4	78	87	28	6-5-0-1	6-7-0-3	3-3-0-4	W1
Buffalo	30	12	14	4	0	78	84	28	6-9-1-0	6-5-3-0	5-4-1-0	L1
Ottawa	31	13	16	1	1	68	92	28	8-8-0-1	5-8-1-0	3-6-0-1	W1
Florida	28	13	15	0	0	71	72	26	6-5-0-0	7-11-0-0	3-7-0-0	L1
Toronto	29	11	14	2	2	65	86	26	8-6-2-1	3-8-0-1	4-5-1-0	W1
New Jersey	29	8	19	1	1	53	88	18	4-7-1-1	4-12-0-0	3-7-0-0	L5
NY Islanders	27	5	17	3	2	59	93	15	3-7-1-1	2-10-2-1	1-7-2-0	L5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	28	19	6	2	1	96	73	41	11-3-1-1	8-3-1-0	6-3-1-0	W2
d-Vancouver	28	16	8	2	2	91	74	36	9-3-1-1	7-5-1-1	6-3-1-0	W1
d-Dallas	29	17	10	0	2	83	80	36	11-3-0-1	6-7-0-1	7-2-0-1	L1
Anaheim	33	16	13	2	2	87	98	36	11-6-0-1	5-7-2-1	6-3-0-1	W2
Chicago	31	16	12	2	1	96	89	35	8-8-0-0	8-4-2-1	6-3-1-0	L1
Phoenix	28	14	8	4	2	81	77	34	6-4-2-2	8-4-2-0	6-3-0-1	W1
Nashville	28	14	8	4	2	71	70	34	6-1-3-2	8-7-1-0	5-2-1-2	W2
Colorado	29	15	10	4	0	101	90	34	7-4-1-0	8-6-3-0	4-3-3-0	W2
San Jose	29	15	10	4	0	88	84	34	8-4-2-0	7-6-2-0	6-4-0-0	W1
Los Angeles	27	16	10	1	0	73	65	33	11-2-1-0	5-8-0-0	4-5-1-0	L1
Columbus	28	16	11	0	1	74	76	33	8-7-0-1	8-4-0-0	4-5-0-1	W1
St. Louis	28	14	9	2	3	72	75	33	9-2-0-2	5-7-2-1	4-4-1-1	L1
Minnesota	29	13	12	1	3	71	86	30	7-6-0-2	6-6-1-1	4-4-1-1	L1
Edmonton	29	11	13	1	4	77	101	27	5-7-1-1	6-6-1-2	6-3-0-1	L1
Calgary	30	12	15	1	2	81	89	27	7-6-0-0	5-9-1-2	4-4-0-2	L2

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
N.Y. Rangers 7 Washington 0
Vancouver 2 Edmonton 1
Anaheim 6 Minnesota 2
Saturday's results
Toronto 3 Montreal 1
Tampa Bay 5 Vancouver 4 (OT)
Atlanta 5 N.Y. Islanders 4
Carolina 2 St. Louis 1 (SO)
Colorado 3 Washington 2
Columbus 3 N.Y. Rangers 1
Detroit 4 New Jersey 1
Minnesota 3 Los Angeles 2 (OT)
Nashville 3 Florida 0
Philadelphia 2 Boston 1 (OT)
Phoenix 5 Dallas 2
Pittsburgh 5 Buffalo 2
San Jose 2 Chicago 1 (OT)
Tonight's games
(All times Eastern)
Los Angeles at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Columbus at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

CANUCKS 2, OILERS 1

First Period
1. Vancouver, Burrows 5 (D.Sedin, H.Sedin) 6:12
Missed penalty shot — Paajarvi Edm, 7:13.
Penalties — None.
Second Period
2. Vancouver, H.Sedin 5 (D.Sedin, Kesler) 6:37
Penalties — Gagner Edm (holding) 4:33, Kesler Vcr (hooking) 14:14, D.Sedin Vcr (hooking) 17:27.
Third Period
3. Edmonton, Eberle 6 (Penner, Foster) 19:55 (pp)
Penalties — Samuelsson Vcr (hooking) 2:03, Gagner Edm (tripping) 9:30, Brule Edm (boarding) 13:58, Peckham Edm (high-sticking) 14:10, Kesler Vcr (slashing) 19:20.
Shots

Vancouver	9	9	14	32
Edmonton	4	7	1	12

Goal — Vancouver: Luongo (W,13-8-2)); Edmonton: Dubnyk (L,2-3-3). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Vancouver: 0-4; Edmonton: 1-4.
Att. — 16,839 (16,839) at Edmonton.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Crosby, Pgh	26	25	51
Stamkos, TB	24	20	44
St. Louis, TB	11	26	37
D.Sedin, Vcr	16	20	36
Ovechkin, Wash	12	24	36
Datsyuk, Det	11	25	36
Perry, Ana	16	19	35
H.Sedin, Vcr	5	30	35
B.Richards, Dal	12	22	34
Semin, Wash	18	15	33
Backstrom, Wash	11	22	33
Getzlaf, Ana	10	22	32
Hejduk, Col	11	20	31
Sharp, Chi	17	13	30
M.Richards, Pha	11	19	30
Byfuglien, Atl	10	20	30
Heatley, SJ	13	16	29
Zetterberg, Det	10	19	29
Roy, Buf	9	20	29
Giroux, Pha	14	14	28
Eriksson, Dal	12	16	28
Neal, Dal	12	16	28
E.Staal, Car	12	16	28
P.Stastny, Col	12	16	28
Ladd, Atl	10	18	28
Selanne, Ana	10	18	28
Clowe, SJ	8	20	28
Dubinsky, NYR	14	13	27
P.Kane, Chi	11	16	27
Kopitar, LA	11	16	27
Duchene, Col	9	18	27
Havlat, Minn	7	20	27
Lucic, Bos	15	11	26
Ryan, Ana	14	12	26
Toews, Chi	13	13	26
Iginla, Cal	12	14	26
J.Williams, LA	10	16	26
Plekanec, Mtl	9	17	26
J.Thornton, SJ	7	19	26
Liles, Col	5	21	26
Letang, Pgh	5	21	26
Vanek, Buf	13	12	25
C.Stewart, Col	11	14	25
M.Koivu, Minn	6	19	25
Visnovsky, Ana	4	21	25
Nash, Clb	15	9	24
J.Carter, Pha	12	12	24
Malone, TB	9	15	24
Briere, Pha	16	7	23
Horton, Bos	11	12	23
Callahan, NYR	10	13	23
Tanguay, Cal	8	15	23

Not including last night's games

GOLF

LPGA QUALIFYING SCHOOL

At Daytona Beach, Fla.
Par 72
Final Round
(Champions Course: 6,389 yards, and Legends Course: 6,468 yards, par-72; a — denotes amateur):

EARNED FULL EXEMPTION FOR 2011 LPGA TOUR

Aree Song	67-72-71-71-73—354
a-Jessica Korda	72-72-66-69-77—356
Jimin Jeong	69-69-73-75-71—357
Danah Ford Bordner	72-76-72-70-68—358
Dewi Claire Schreefel	70-74-71-69-74—358
Pornanong Phatlum	72-66-76-70-74—358
Reilley Rankin	67-73-73-70-75—358
Jeehae Lee	71-72-74-70-72—359
Belen Mozo	68-72-72-73-74—359
Angela Oh	70-74-70-72-74—360
Nicole Hage	71-73-69-72-75—360
Pernilla Lindberg	68-77-68-76-72—361
Dori Carter	71-74-70-71-75—361
Kimberly Kim	71-78-70-73-70—362
Stephanie Sherlock	**74-74-74-68-72—362**
Mollie Fankhauser	70-71-75-73-73—362
Jennie Lee	77-73-70-68-74—362
Christel Boeljon	71-76-71-70-74—362
Sara Brown	72-73-72-71-74—362
Jin Young Pak	72-71-69-71-79—362

EARNED CONDITIONAL EXEMPTION FOR 2011 LPGA TOUR

Paola Moreno	72-74-71-69-77—363
Alison Whitaker	72-78-72-71-71—364
Tiffany Joh	73-75-71-74-71—364
Jean Reynolds	73-76-71-72-72—364
Nanette Hill	73-72-73-70-76—364
Jenny Suh	74-71-71-70-78—364
Nicole Jeray	70-74-72-70-78—364
Shasta Averyhardt	70-71-77-67-79—364
Libby Smith	67-69-73-73-82—364
Jessica Shepley	**74-79-72-66-74—365**
Stephanie Kim	73-74-71-69-78—365
Allison Fouch	71-72-74-71-77—365
Jodi Ewart	79-73-69-72-73—366
Alison Walshe	71-78-72-71-74—366
Angela Buzminski	**70-77-74-70-75—366**
Amelia Lewis	72-73-74-72-75—366
Adrienne White	**71-76-70-73-76—366**
Caroline Hedwall	71-73-74-72-77—367
Jennifer Gleason	76-72-76-70-74—368
a-Harukyo Nomura	76-69-74-73-76—368
Ayaka Kaneko	69-78-70-73-78—368
Meredith Duncan	75-73-78-69-73—368
Beth Bader	74-75-73-70-76—368

FAILED TO EARN EXEMPTION

Samantha Richdale	**77-72-75-72-74—370**
Isabelle Beisiegel	**72-76-72-77-77—374**
Seema Sadekar	**77-73-74-72-82—378**

DID NOT QUALIFY FOR FINAL ROUND

Ashley Smith	**78-74-77-73—302**
Sue Kim	**78-76-75-75—304**
Kirby Dreher	**77-78-74-79—308**

AUSTRALIAN PGA

At Coolum, Australia
Par 72
Partial Final Round
(Note: 24 players who were on the course when play ceased due to rain will complete their final rounds today)

Marc Leishman	72-71-72-66—281
Jarrod Lyle	74-70-72-67—283
Nathan Green	71-70-73-69—283
Richard Lee	71-71-76-66—284
Bradley Smith	69-74-73-68—284
Kieran Pratt	67-76-73-68—284
Scott Strange	74-69-72-69—284
Brett Rumford	71-72-75-67—285
Stephen Dartnall	69-69-78-69—285
Rod Pampling	68-71-77-69—285
Hiroshi Iwata	70-70-75-70—285
Jordan Sherratt	69-71-75-70—285
Peter O'Malley	72-67-75-71—285
Craig Hasthorpe	72-68-74-71—285
Alistair Presnell	72-72-75-67—286
Simon Yates	71-73-73-69—286
Tetsuya Haraguchi	69-74-74-69—286
Steven Jones	69-75-71-71—286
James Nitties	67-75-74-71—287
Anthony Brown	76-68-71-72—287
Brad McIntosh	69-72-74-72—287
Michael Wright	72-69-74-72—287
Ryan Haller	69-73-72-73—287
Choi Joon-woo	70-72-74-72—288
C.J. Gatto	69-72-75-72—288
Scott Laycock	68-74-73-73—288

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Boston	19	4	.826	—
d-Miami	17	8	.680	3
Orlando	16	8	.667	3½
Atlanta	16	9	.640	4
New York	16	9	.640	4
d-Chicago	14	8	.636	4½
Indiana	11	11	.500	7½
Milwaukee	9	13	.409	9½
Toronto	9	15	.375	10½
Charlotte	8	15	.348	11
Philadelphia	8	15	.348	11
Cleveland	7	17	.292	12½
Detroit	7	18	.280	13
Washington	6	16	.273	12½
New Jersey	6	18	.250	13½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-San Antonio	20	3	.870	—
Dallas	19	4	.826	1
d-L.A. Lakers	17	7	.708	3½
d-Oklahoma City	17	8	.680	4
d-Utah	17	8	.680	4
Denver	14	9	.609	6
New Orleans	14	9	.609	6
Portland	12	12	.500	8½
Phoenix	11	12	.478	9
Memphis	10	14	.417	10½
Houston	9	14	.391	11
Golden State	8	15	.348	12
Minnesota	6	18	.250	14½
Sacramento	5	16	.238	14
L.A. Clippers	5	20	.200	16

d-division leader
Yesterday's results
New York 129 Denver 125
Philadelphia 88 New Orleans 70
L.A. Lakers 99 New Jersey 92
San Antonio 95 Portland 78
Oklahoma City 106 Cleveland 77
Orlando 94 L.A. Clippers 85
Saturday's results
Memphis 84 L.A. Clippers 83
Atlanta 97 Indiana 83
Boston 93 Charlotte 62
Toronto 120 Detroit 116
Chicago 113 Minnesota 82
Dallas 103 Utah 97
Houston 110 Cleveland 95
Miami 104 Sacramento 83
Tonight's games
(All times Eastern)
New Orleans at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Portland at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Milwaukee at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Golden State at Utah, 9 p.m.

LEADERS

SCORING AVERAGE

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	20	176	167	549	27.5
Bryant, LAL	23	210	158	608	26.4
Stoudemire, NYK	24	234	153	626	26.1
Rose, CHI	21	203	84	527	25.1
Nowitzki, DAL	23	220	115	575	25.0
Ellis, GOL	23	216	96	560	24.3
Gordon, LAC	22	171	163	535	24.3
James, MIA	25	204	167	605	24.2
Westbrook, OKC	24	192	183	575	24.0
Martin, HOU	23	147	190	533	23.2
Wade, MIA	24	194	151	554	23.1
Anthony, DEN	20	157	127	455	22.8
Williams, UTA	25	189	150	567	22.7
Howard, ORL	21	157	137	451	21.5
Bargnani, TOR	24	193	96	512	21.3
Beasley, MIN	22	190	70	468	21.3
Gay, MEM	24	196	83	508	21.2
Granger, IND	22	161	92	464	21.1
Love, MIN	24	165	131	493	20.5
Scola, HOU	23	188	89	465	20.2

Field Goal Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Hilario, DEN	99	157	.631
Gasol, MEM	105	172	.610
Young, PHL	117	196	.597
Ibaka, OKC	105	180	.583
Odom, LAL	143	248	.577
Horford, ATL	179	312	.574
Howard, ORL	157	275	.571
Nowitzki, DAL	220	387	.568
McGee, WAS	89	157	.567

Not including last night's games

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

MLB

NATIONAL LEAGUE
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Traded INF Brendan Ryan to Seattle for RHP Maikel Cleto.

BASKETBALL

NBA

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS—Recalled F Craig Brackins from Springfield (NBADL).

FOOTBALL

NFL

DENVER BRONCOS—Fined CB Perrish Cox an undisclosed amount for missing meetings and practice after his arrest on Dec. 9 in an investigation into an alleged sexual assault.

HOCKEY

NHL

MONTREAL CANADIENS—Recalled LW Max Pacioretty from Hamilton (AHL). Assigned C David Desharnais to Hamilton.
ST. LOUIS BLUES—Assigned F Stefan Della Rovere and F Dave Scatchard to Peoria (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Reassigned F Marc-Antoine Pouliot to Norfolk (AHL).
WASHINGTON CAPITALS—Recalled RW Andrew Gordon from Hershey (AHL).

ECHL

ELMIRA JACKALS—Traded D Brad Miller to Trenton for future considerations.

SPEEDSKATING

WORLD CUP

At Obihiro, Japan
MEN
500
1, Joji Kato, Japan, 34.96 seconds. 2, Keiichiro Nagashima, Japan, 35.19. 3, Lee Kyou-hyuk, South Korea, 35.19. 4, Akio Ota, Japan, 35.29. **5, Jamie Gregg, Edmonton, 35.31.**
World Cup 500 Standings
1, Joji Kato, Japan, 615 points. 1, Lee Kang-seok, South Korea, 590. 3, Keiichiro Nagashima, Japan, 488. 4, Lee Hyou-hyuk, South Korea, 475. 5, Tucker Fredricks, U.S., 434.
1,000
1, Samuel Schwarz, Germany, one minute 9.98 seconds. 2, Shani Davis, U.S., 1:10.15. 3, Jan Bos, Netherlands, 1:10.17. 4, Lee Kyou-hyuk, South Korea, 1:10.28. 5, Lars Elgersma, Netherlands, 1:10.29. **Also: 9, Jamie Gregg, Edmonton, 1:10.67.**
World Cup 1,000 Standings
1, Lee Kyou-hyuk, South Korea, 402. 2, Shani Davis, U.S., 380. 3, Stefan Groothuis, Netherlands, 330. 4, Simon Kuipers, Netherlands, 290. 5, Samuel Schwarz, Germany, 253.
WOMEN
500
1, Jenny Wolf, Germany, 38.03. 2, Lee Sang-hwa, South Korea, 38.21. 3, Yu Jing, China, 38.30. 4, Nao Kodaira, Japan, 38.69. 5, Maki Tsuji, Japan, 38.81.
World Cup 500 Standings
1, Jenny Wolf, Germany, 620. 2, Lee Sang-hwa, South Korea, 570. 3, Nao Kodaira, Japan, 415. 4, Margot Boer, Netherlands, 410. 5, Heather Richardson, U.S., 304.
1,000
1, Heather Richardson, U.S., 1:17.27. 2, Nao Kodaira, Japan, 1:17.77. 3, Maki Tsuji, Japan, 1:18.29. 4, Monique Angermuller, Germany, 1:18.67. 5, Judith Hesse, Germany, 1:18.74. **Also: 8, Shannon Rempel, Winnipeg, 1:18.92.**
World Cup 1,000 Standings
1, Christine Nesbitt, London, Ont., 400. 2, Heather Richardson, U.S., 390. 3, Margot Boer, Netherlands, 260. 4, Nao Kodaira, Japan, 259. **5, Shannon Rempel, Winnipeg, 182.**

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New England	11	2	0	.846	415	276
N.Y. Jets	9	4	0	.692	273	242
Miami	7	6	0	.538	225	244
Buffalo	3	10	0	.231	256	339

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Jacksonville	8	5	0	.615	295	331
Indianapolis	7	6	0	.538	347	318
Houston	5	7	0	.417	288	321
Tennessee	5	8	0	.385	291	265

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	290	198
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	260	201
Cleveland	5	8	0	.385	235	252
Cincinnati	2	11	0	.154	262	345

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	8	5	0	.615	295	268
San Diego	7	6	0	.538	354	253
Oakland	6	7	0	.462	314	307
Denver	3	10	0	.231	269	376

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	9	4	0	.692	374	308
N.Y. Giants	8	4	0	.667	308	247
Washington	5	8	0	.385	238	310
Dallas	4	9	0	.308	321	366

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	11	2	0	.846	335	243
New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	330	240
Tampa Bay	8	5	0	.615	260	267
Carolina	1	12	0	.077	164	338

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	9	4	0	.692	253	228
Green Bay	8	5	0	.615	306	189
Minnesota	5	7	0	.417	227	253
Detroit	3	10	0	.231	285	309

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	6	7	0	.462	261	329
St. Louis	6	7	0	.462	245	268
San Francisco	5	8	0	.385	243	280
Arizona	4	9	0	.308	243	351

x — clinched playoff berth.

WEEK 14

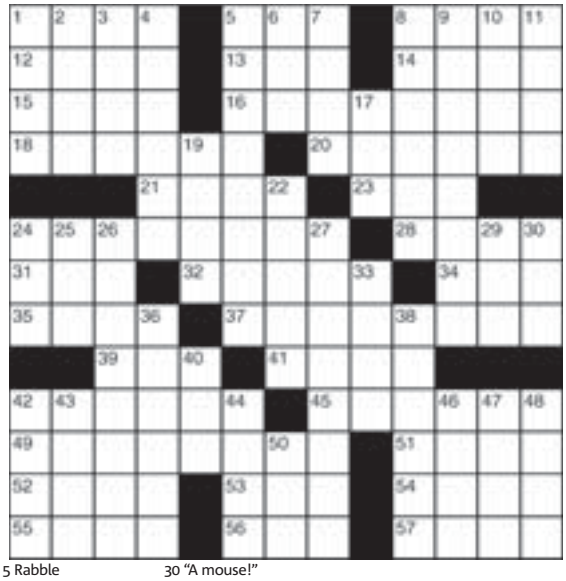
Yesterday's results
Arizona 43 Denver 13
Atlanta 31 Carolina 10
Buffalo 13 Cleveland 6
Detroit 7 Green Bay 3
Jacksonville 38 Oakland 31
Miami 10 N.Y. Jets 6
New England 36 Chicago 7
New Orleans 31 St. Louis 13
Pittsburgh 23 Cincinnati 7
San Diego 31 Kansas City 0
San Francisco 40 Seattle 21
Tampa Bay 17 Washington 16
Philadelphia 30 Dallas 27
N.Y. Giants at Minnesota (ppd., snow and stadium problems)
Thursday's result
Indianapolis 30 Tennessee 28
Tonight's games
(All times Eastern)
N.Y. Giants vs. Minnesota (at Detroit), 7:20 p.m.
Baltimore at Houston, 8:30 p.m.

WEEK 15

Thursday, Dec. 16
San Francisco at San Diego, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 19
Kansas City at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Washington at Dallas, 1 p.m.
Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Miami, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
Denver at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh, 4:15 p.m.
Green Bay at New England, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 20
Chicago at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO THE IPHONE SINCE OUR LAST APP!
NEW Crossword and Suduko updated daily.
Available on the App Store
metro play

Crossword



Across

1 Reveille's opposite
5 Sindbad's bird
8 Reach by telephone
12 Urban disturbance
13 Altar affirmative
14 Lotion additive
15 Smell
16 MySpace alternative
18 Import duty
20 Tweaks
21 Auto-making pioneer
23 Individual
24 King, queen or jack
28 Pinnacle
31 Listener
32 Beatles' "— Fine"
34 Anger
35 Caprice
37 Hockey goalie's protection
39 Bill
41 Roman 1,052
42 In the same place (Lat.)
45 "Gilligan's —"
49 Lying prone
51 Stead
52 Woman in Germany
53 That woman
54 Paradise
55 Shrill bark
56 Turf
57 Cincinnati team

Down

1 Jog
2 Verdi opera
3 Indigent
4 Bitter discord
5 Rabble
6 Harem room
7 Imogene of old TV
8 Poolside hut
9 Baldness
10 Swag
11 Albanian money
17 Tokyo's old name
19 Points of convergence
22 Night vision?
24 A mere handful
25 "That feels so-o-o good"
26 Fault-finding
27 Just said no
29 Wife's address
30 "A mouse!"
33 Hawaiian garlands
36 Improvised
38 "King of the Road" singer Roger
40 Foundation
42 Uncertain
43 Exposed
44 Rolling stone's lack
46 Staffer
47 Require
48 Presses for payment
50 Personal question?

▶ Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

	6		4			1		
2			1					8
		8		3	5			9
		7		4	1			5
1			3	2		7		
7			8	6		2		
3					4			7
		6			9		8	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

4	6	9	3	7	5	1	2	8
7	8	3	2	1	4	6	5	9
5	1	2	9	8	6	3	7	4
3	2	7	4	6	8	5	9	1
1	5	4	7	3	9	8	6	2
6	9	8	1	5	2	4	3	7
2	3	6	8	4	7	9	1	5
9	4	1	5	2	3	7	8	6
8	7	5	6	9	1	2	4	3

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

To the best TTC Subway Operator and my best friend; You are my Batman, You are my Moosie, Wort wort wort!
ASH

V, I can't wait for all the amazing things we have in our future together. You're a truly beautiful partner, inside and out, to go through life with. I love you Sweetpea.
A

Hey baby giraffe. Hope you ace your exam today. We are almost done!! Winter break soon times!! I love you.
ONA

Jr, you know how much I miss you? I know how you are always there, but I just miss you so much, don't know if you will see this, but I just want to tell you that I love you, as always,
KATIE

A look at the weather

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Min -1° Max 3°	Min -7° Max 3°	Min -11° Max -1°

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta". **WEEKDAYS 6AM**

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 If there is something of a creative nature that needs to be finished you had better get on with it quickly. Be confident. Be adventurous. Take risks.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 You must get tough and let certain people know that the free ride is over. You have done more than enough for them, now they must do something for you.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Don't listen to those who say you should play safe. There may be an element of danger involved in what you are planning but what fun would life be if everything was a sure thing? Risk is what keeps you looking so young.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Follow your instincts today, no matter how illogical they may seem, you might just land yourself a winner. You've been too timid of late and it's time to take a few chances.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You may be finding it hard to put your thoughts into words but your communication skills will improve over the next few days. Make sure you know what's happening on the work front.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Something you have been struggling with for quite some time will come easier today, making you glad you did not give up on it when the going was tough. Better days are coming.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you need inspiration as the week begins you are more likely to get it from other people than from inside your own head. Listen carefully to what friends and work colleagues have to tell you.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Others will say nice things about you today, which in turn will boost your confidence and make you determined to do well, both for them and for yourself.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 There is no point feeling sorry for yourself just because a few things have gone wrong. Each day is a new beginning, remind yourself of that fact often today.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You are worrying about a mistake you made in the distant past. Why? What's done is done and cannot be undone. Live in the now.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 There may be a certain tension in the air as the new week begins but don't let it worry you. Others are well aware how much they depend on you so a parting of the ways is unlikely.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 You seem reluctant to give up a viewpoint that has gone out of fashion. Do you know something that no one else does, or are you too stubborn to change with the times? Whatever the reason give it some thought today. **SALLY BROMPTON**

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